

THE MCGILL DAILY

Volume 89, Issue 41 January 20, 2000

Smoking magic cigarettes since 1911

Kids today: Why are they so crazy?

See pg. 8



NEWS –

Coke deal may be voted upon by students - pg. 2

CULTURE –

Bryan Adams can rock, but can he take pictures? - pg. 14

Coke Deal May See Student Referendum

Hundreds of signatures collected in campaign to stop exclusivity deal

BY JON BRICKER

Students may get to vote on a deal being pushed forward by administration and SSMU that would give Coke exclusive rights to beverage sales on campus.

Hundreds of signatures were rounded up yesterday in support of a student referendum on campus corporate exclusivity deals, the first step, organizers say, in forcing a student referendum on a potential deal with Coke.

Organizers also received approval from SSMU's chief returning officer for a referendum question to be included in March's SSMU elections. It reads: "Do you agree that McGill University and the Students' Society of McGill University must preserve student choice on campus by rejecting exclusivity agreements?"

According to SSMU's constitution, the organizers can force a referendum later this year by collecting 500 signatures, a target they say they've nearly met.

Tamara Kochar is one of a handful of organizers that spent yesterday collecting signatures. She criticized the closed nature of cold beverage agreement talks.

"It's very paternalistic of McGill to just assume that students would like an exclusive cold beverage agreement," said Kochar, former clubs and services rep to SSMU and one of the students pushing for the referendum. "Having a referendum

gives students an opportunity to voice what they think about the CBA."

She pointed to the backlash that occurred at UQAM and Université de Laval, which recently led both universities to stop plans to go ahead with similar lucrative contracts with cola giants Pepsi and Coke.

But while referendum organizers say a "yes" vote would bind SSMU to rejecting the deal, SSMU VP Operations Kevin McPhee, who represents the SSMU in negotiations, says a referendum would be too little, too late.

"This needed to be done a long time ago," he said. "A referendum wouldn't come in time [to stop a deal]," he said.

Kochar disagreed, noting that so far, McGill has only inked a letter of intent to sign with Coke, and is not committed to exclusivity. "Nothing has been signed yet. We can still stop it," she said.

The preamble to the referendum question details a host of concerns with exclusivity agreements, namely that they create monopolies on campus, jeopardize consumer choice, and invite a corporate stake in academia. Many also question universities' willingness to attach their names to those of multinationals with often dubious human rights records.

"There's a real need to regulate corporate monopolies on campus," said Kochar. "Corporations should not be dictating to students and student groups what they can or cannot sell."

But while Kochar was part of the hand-

ful of students that managed to collect nearly 500 signatures yesterday, McPhee says the anti-CBA voice represents only a handful of students and ignores the poten-

"Students here are less concerned with the idea of getting a few more Coke machines on campus in return for a better education."

“Students here are less concerned with the idea of getting a few more Coke machines on campus in return for a better education.”

tial for benefit from exclusivity deals.

"We haven't seen that kind of resistance here. I think it's a small group of students who are against the whole process and so they're going to work by any means possible to see this fail.

"They aren't going to tell students about the benefits of a cold beverage agreement, all the good things we'll get in return for the small sacrifice we're making....Instead, they're going to focus on, oh, violation of human rights, blah, blah, blah, blah."

He's confident that the backlash that led to cancelled deals at UQAM and Université de Laval, won't be felt at McGill. "Sure, it hits home....But the student unions there tend to be a bit more social-ist," McPhee said.

He admitted though that it was unfortunate that the process had to be closed. "If I wasn't in a position where I can see the agreement and make sure that things are done in a way that represents my rights as a student, then I'd probably be as frustrated as anyone."

He also defended SSMU's efforts to concern itself with corporate influence on campus. "I don't want to be sitting in the Coke classroom either," McPhee said.

But some say that kind of influence is already being felt. They point to the brand new Brown Student Services Building, which features the Coca-Cola Lounge directly across from SSMU's new offices.

And if the cold beverage deal goes ahead, McPhee says, the campus could see non-Coke products replaced across cam-

pus, new machines featuring McGill athletes on them, and plastic cups at local watering holes featuring both Coke and McGill logos. The university has been mum on terms of the deal and dollar amounts.

Vilma DiRienzo-Campbell, who handles much of the CBA portfolio for the university and is assistant director for McGill's Legal Services, says that she wouldn't be shocked to see students speak out against a CBA deal. "It wouldn't be a surprise based on what happened at UQAM," she said.

And if a student referendum showed that students didn't like the idea, she imagines the administration would take notice. "I can't see how the university would ignore," she said. "We always listen to students' concerns and interests."

But François Tanguay-Renaud, a student who also spent yesterday collecting signatures, said the referendum question goes beyond the cold beverage agreement. "It would send a strong message about all exclusivity contracts," he said.

If the referendum passed, he explained, it would also force SSMU's hand on the deal with Chapters to run the campus bookstore, a deal that also limits student societies' rights to conduct book sales. A "yes" vote, he explained, would make SSMU rethink the deal when the existing contract with Chapters runs out.

"It should be subject to serious review when it ends," Tanguay-Renaud said.

news briefs



logo on a university landmark? What would be off limits? Could this list be put before Senate for our edification or entertainment?"

Principal Shapiro responded by saying that such information would be presented when it becomes available.

-Ben Errett

CORPORATE NAMING POLICY CHALLENGED

McGill's policy of allowing corporations to affix their names and logos to campus landmarks was the topic of debate at Senate yesterday. Responding to questions raised at last month's senate meeting about the availability of things to be named, Principal Bernard Shapiro said that he had "no idea" of the price of having a donors' names affixed to campus facilities.

"That information would be interesting," he said, "but it is unavailable."

Political Science Professor Sam Noumoff asked if the senate could review a list of which facilities were available for naming.

"Should one of our fundraisers find a corporation that will donate a certain amount of money to put their crest or

PAUL MARTIN DEFENDS OTTAWA'S EDUCATION RECORD

WINNIPEG (CUP) - Federal Finance Minister Paul Martin may have received a standing ovation from a crowd of more than 600 party faithful at a Winnipeg hotel last week, but outside the hotel, a much smaller but vocal group bundled up to carry placards and hand out flyers, while condemning the federal Liberals for ignoring the issue of accessibility in post-secondary education.

"We're calling on Paul Martin to give the surplus back to students," a shivering Elizabeth Carlyle told Canadian University Press.

Carlyle, the deputy chairperson for the Canadian Federation of Students, says the federal government owes Canada's university students \$7-billion - the amount the CFS says has been cut

from post-secondary education since 1993. She went on to say that a significant portion of Ottawa's projected surplus - estimated at more than \$95-billion over the next five years - should be returned to students enrolled in higher education programs.

But Martin gave the Liberals a pat on the back at the \$100-a-plate affair, insisting that Ottawa has been anything but stingy with students over the last decade.

"Good skills are indeed an essential part of the social safety net of the future.

"That's why in the budget before last, we dedicated over \$7-billion [to the Millennium Scholarship Fund] to make higher learning accessible to all," said Martin.

The CFS recently distributed a "Millennium Scholarship Fact Sheet," drawing attention to what the organization claims is a short-sighted attempt to address the financial needs of post-secondary students.

In their report, the CFS charges that only 8 per cent of the 750,000 students in need of financial assistance will be eligible to receive the scholarship.

Instead of scholarships, Carlyle says the government should award grants to post-secondary students based on their financial need. She says fear of amassing a burdensome debt is barring too many potential students from accessing post-secondary education.

Canada is one of only three industrialized countries without a nation-wide

grants program, Carlyle added.

The CFS says the Canadian Government spends \$1.3-billion per year to administer Canada Student Loans. A national grants program, by their estimates, would cost \$100-million less.

-Dave Leibl

LIVE ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS PUT ON HOLD AT U OF ILLINOIS

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. (U-Wire) - Live animal experiments for first-year veterinary students at the University of Illinois have been cancelled this semester, as administrators explore alternatives to experiments that kill animals to teach students.

The new policy will likely establish procedures where students will learn how normal animals function by using less invasive methods in their basic physiology classes.

Veterinary students were never forced to participate in the experiments, but were not offered alternatives. More than 25 students opted out of the experiments last semester.

Currently, veterinary schools across the United States are moving toward using live animals less, especially in beginning classes.

Victor Valli, dean of the University's College of Veterinary Medicine, said that veterinary schools are moving toward a less hands-on approach but said real experi-

ence is still the best way to learn.

"There are other ways of learning, obviously," he said. "There's no doubt that hands-on experience is helpful. I think it's up to our creativity to design new techniques."

A group of students spurred the policy change, while reaction to local media articles brought a flood of mail to the college - both supporting and opposing a change.

"It certainly makes it much more difficult to deal with when you're getting a barrage of hate mail," Valli said. But he added, "We really resent the definition of killing and tormentors and other ways of describing our teaching. It was not inhumane. We are not allowed to cause pain."

The school is also changing the source of the animals it uses in experiments. Dogs will be purchased from places that raise them solely for experiments, not dealers who might steal animals or get them from shelters.

"It means that it costs about five times as much," Valli said, adding that costs could also be kept down because the animals could be put to more use with the possible revised policies.

The college hopes to implement the new policies this semester, but University academic requirements and policies must be met and student concerns addressed before live animals will be in first-year classrooms, Valli said.

-Amanda Griner

Space Queen Comes Down To Earth

Canadian astronaut and McGill grad Julie Payette speaks at Moyse Hall

BY JOE MARIN

Canada's poster-girl for science, Julie Payette, came back to her alma mater last week to talk about her experiences in space.

Payette appeared in front of a packed house at Moyse Hall on Monday afternoon. She also returned a flag that had circled the earth more than 150 times and had traveled six billion kilometers in 10 days. The flag belongs to the McGill Centre for Intelligent Machines, a research group that once employed Payette.

In addition to being the first McGill graduate in space, the multi-talented Payette is also an accomplished pianist, vocal soloist, linguist, and athlete.

"It is an extraordinary privilege to go to space," said the NASA astronaut, a 1986 McGill graduate in electrical engineering, "and the least we can do is to try to share as much as we can of the adventure, the beauty and the purpose with others."

Unabashedly patriotic, she began her slide show with a picture of Neil Armstrong standing beside the lunar lander.

"The first feet to touch the moon were the feet of the lunar module which were designed and built just outside of Montreal," she said. "So, if you want to be technically correct, the first feet to touch the moon were Canadian."

Payette went on to discuss what she called "a new era of collaboration" in space that has seen former enemies come together to work toward the common goal of building the International Space Station. As an example of this new spirit, she showed a photo of an American shuttle docked with the Russian built Mir space station.

Payette also described her space mission from last year. On May 27, 1999, the space shuttle Discovery took off from the Kennedy Space Center to embark on the second construction mission for the International Space Station. Included in the crew were Payette, several Americans, and a Russian. The shuttle contained nearly 4 tonnes of equipment and supplies destined for the station.

"We brought computers, spare parts, tools, cranes, operational systems and even clothes for the first permanent occupants of the station."

Currently, the space station consists of only two modules, one American built and one Russian built.

Payette couldn't resist taking a shot at one of NASA's recent well-publicized failures. She referred to one of NASA's Mars probes that was lost because of a calculation error caused by a mix up of imperial and metric units.

"It's a miracle that the two modules hooked up so well in space. As you know, our American friends use the imperial system of units and the Russians use the metric system and we know that this can be dangerous."

By the time the International Space Station is finished it will be the size of two football fields and will have required 50 separate space missions to complete. Later this year another shuttle will bring a service module that contains living quarters and life-support systems and the first permanent station crew will soon follow.

Payette compared the building of the space station, which she sees as the most challenging feat of engineering ever attempted, to "trying to build a ship in the middle of the ocean, during a storm, bringing everything with you and doing that with 20 different countries."

Not surprisingly, Canada's main contribution to the International Space Station will be a robotic arm called, "The Station Arm." It will be similar to the famous Canadarm that has long been in use on space shuttle missions.

During the most fascinating part of her talk, Payette showed pictures taken from orbit of various locations on Earth and quizzed the audience on what they were.



Julie Payette spoke at McGill last Monday

Featured in the photos were Mt. Everest, an Australian coral reef, the Grand Canyon, the English Channel, the Great Lakes, a lit up New York City at night, Paris, Prince Edward Island, and finally, the island of Montreal.

No presentation by an astronaut would be complete without someone asking, "How do you go to the bathroom in space?" And sure enough an audience member obliged during the question-and-answer session.

"Weightlessness is a non-discriminating process, everything floats. Of course there are certain solids and liquids that you don't want floating around so we use a vacuum," said Payette.

She went on to describe in some detail the extensive pre-launch toilet training that all astronauts receive.

"They teach you to position yourself in the middle, make sure you have a good seal, and aim."

Payette seemed somewhat taken aback by a question about whether or not anyone has ever had sex in space.

"Let me ask you a question," she replied. "Are you from arts or from engineering? In a NASA spaceship, the mission is planned and is there for anybody to read, and the answer is no."

Brown Building to be Model of Accessibility

Rest of campus still below par, Principal Shapiro admits

BY BEN ERRETT

The newly opened Brown Student Services Building is a model of accessibility, said Dean of Students Rosemary Jukier at Senate yesterday. Jukier was responding to concerns that the 10.5-million-dollar building is not yet fully accessible to people with disabilities.

"The building itself was designed with the input of the Office for Students with Disabilities," said Jukier.

She noted that all aspects of the building, from hand rails to raised Braille lettering on signs, had been designed with accessibility in mind. The main problem with the building's accessibility, though, is its location.

"The actual location on the city street is a problem. Accessibility to the building on

McTavish Street is complicated," Jukier said.

She explained that an elevator will be built in the Shatner Student Union Building, allowing access to the Brown building through passages on the first and second floors.

"The contractor assures us that the elevator will be installed by April, so we're hoping that it will be operational by summer at the latest."

Economics professor Myron Frankman asked about the current state of accessibility to the building.

"Are the new doors on the building currently equipped with handicapped push plates?" Frankman asked.

Jukier replied that the plates are not yet installed, but that all such expenses had been budgeted for.

Mathematics professor K. GowriSankaran raised more general concerns about the state of the rest of the campus.

"We recently had a fire drill in Burnside, and a student in a wheelchair on the 6th floor didn't even bother trying to get out. I know there is another student in a wheelchair on the 10th floor. In the drills, the stairways are very crowded. I don't know what would happen in a real fire," GowriSankaran said.

Principal Shapiro responded by admitting that this was a problem affecting buildings throughout the McGill campus.

"There's definitely a huge problem of safety and security on campus," Shapiro said.

"Solving the problem will require a huge amount of time, money, energy and imagination."

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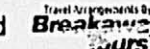
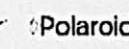
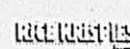
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New Centre to Attempts to Dispel Myths of Evolution

McGill-Harvard joint project counts Stephen Jay Gould among founders

BY JOE MARIN

"Evolution education is by far the biggest failure of science education from top to bottom," claimed Randy Moore, editor of the journal *American Biology Teacher*.

Opinion polls seem to support this assertion, showing that more than 40 per cent of adults living in North America reject evolutionary theory.

The Evolution Education Research Centre (EERC), to be opened at McGill by the end of the month, will soon be on a mission to change all that. Its stated goal: "To advance the teaching and learning of biological evolution through research."

According to its founders, the new centre will be the first body in the world dedicated to evolution education research. The membership will initially include nine professors – five from McGill and four from Harvard. The professors come from a wide range of disciplines but have all worked extensively on evolution-related research.

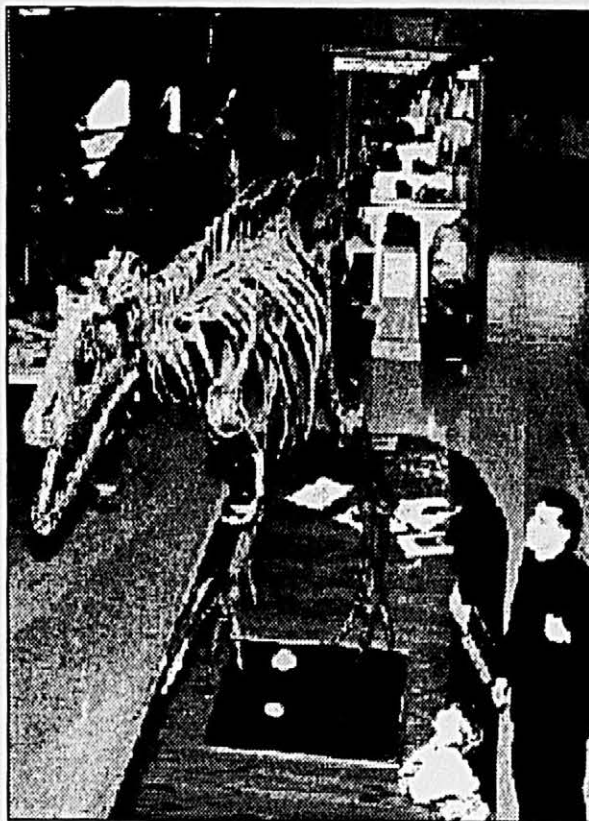
The nine members have expertise encompassing the fields of biological evo-

lution, educational psychology, evolution education, geology, molecular biology, paleontology, philosophy of science, philosophy of education, and science education.

One of the professors occupying a non-board position is Harvard's Steven Jay Gould, one of the few household names among paleontologists. (His fame has even brought him to the popular TV sitcom, *The Simpsons*). Gould is most well known for his theory of "punctuated equilibrium" which hypothesizes that evolution occurred in spurts rather than at a slow, steady rate.

Gould is an outspoken opponent of those who strive to remove the teaching of evolutionary biology from school curriculums. He once remarked that, "Teaching biology without evolution is like teaching English but making grammar optional."

The first director of the EERC will be



Albertosaurus on display at the Redpath Museum

Brian Alters, an assistant professor of education at McGill and a visiting scholar at

Harvard's Philosophy of Education Research Center.

The EERC will initially operate on a study-by-study basis and will expand in the next few years to conduct multiple simultaneous studies. According to Alters, one of the first projects undertaken by the centre will be to see how evolution is taught throughout North America.

"We will examine to what degree evolution is included in curricula of various Canadian Provinces and US States," said Alters.

Opposition has recently been growing towards the teaching of evolution in North America. "As we have seen in Kansas, some places don't care for evolution to even be in the curriculum," said Alters. The Kansas State

Board of Education recently made the decision to remove evolution from the manda-

tory curriculum and leave local boards to decide whether or not the subject should be taught in their schools.

Alters is unwilling to attribute the widespread lack of faith in biological evolution simply to deep religious beliefs. He believes that in most cases it is a combination of religion and doubts about scientific accuracy that prevents many people from embracing the idea of evolution.

"It is less common to find people who understand the science of evolution yet still reject it on religious grounds."

One thing the centre will not do is attempt to standardize the teaching of evolution. "What works in one type of school does not necessarily work in another type of school," explained Alters. "Methods that improve student understanding of evolution in a high school in Montreal may be quite different from those that would help in the US Bible belt."

The founders of the centre hope that future research will lead to improvements in teaching methods, instructional content and presentation, improving evolution education at all levels.

Second MSF Opt-out Hits Campus

Effect of opt-out campaign uncertain

BY BEN ERRIETT AND JON BRICKER

Flyers littered campus this week calling on students to claim "\$38 free," as the winter opt-out period for the McGill Student Fund began.

The MSF legislation requires an opt-out period at the beginning of each semes-

ter, and students who opted out last semester were made to do so again to receive a refund for this semester.

The Students' Society bills the MSF as "students helping students." The \$38 collected from each student goes towards improving libraries, renovations to the Shatner building, and bus fares, funding

which SSMU VP Operations Kevin McPhee says is sorely needed.

"The current situation incapacitates the [Shatner] building to the point where we can't use it to its full potential and have the parties we want to have in here," McPhee told *The Daily* in September.

"[The MSF is also] making available more funds for students who are financially needy, which makes it a lot easier for them to be in university."

The bursary segment of the MSF was presented at Senate yesterday in the report of the University Committee on Scholarships and Student Aid. Titled the SSMU Access Bursary, it is matched in funds by the McGill Development Fund and administered by the Student Aid Office. In total, it is expected to distribute \$600,000 a year over the next five years.

But the controversy that has dogged the fund centres around the belief that it sends a message to the government that students can afford to step up and replace lost public funding.

"Shifting the burden of financing education to students is not a solution," said Mike Leitold, head of the CorpWatch working group at McGill's branch of the Quebec Public Interest Research Group.

"It sends the wrong message to govern-

ment. It says 'we can pay.'"

McPhee counters these claims.

"We can sit back and wait for efforts and lobbying to pay off. Or, we can step up and contribute and say yes, we realize that this is the responsibility of government. However, we are not going to stand idly by while our education system deteriorates," he said.

During last year's opt-out period, 1,712 students opted out of the fund. McPhee predicts this semester's turnout will be similar. However, one factor that was not present last semester is an organized campaign to encourage students to opt-out. Flyers have been distributed around campus, urging students to claim "their money" by opting out "between today and Friday."

"They're taking advantage of the fact that we as university students need as much money as we can find," said McPhee of the campaign.

"Instead of informing students about the opt out and what the fund is at the same time, they're taking the wrong approach."

The SSMU is mounting a poster campaign of their own, with posters explaining the key points of the student fund.

"We try to inform students about not

only the opt-out but also what the MSF is doing," McPhee said of SSMU's campaign.

"If you tell them what it is, it's my hope that they'd say, 'this makes sense.'"

But students waiting to opt-out appeared to confirm that the lure of free money brought them in.

"This is the first time I've opted out," said Elise Pepple, a U1 Philosophy student. Pepple said that she supports the MSF in principle, but needed the money.

"I agreed with it...I like all of these things. But I'm opting out mainly for the money...I feel bad about it."

U1 Management student David Burgess pointed out that while the MSF is good for needy students, it's equally good if those students reclaim their share of the money.

"If people can afford it, it's going to fund the university and help students, and that's great. But if they can't afford it, that's fine too. The people that need the money the most are the ones that can't afford the extra fee."

Last semester's opt-out period was marred by confusion, requiring the period to be extended by another week. This semester's opt-out period has gone smoothly. Students wishing to opt-out may do so until Friday in room 1203 of the Brown Student Services Building.



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Constitution Conundrum Continues

SSMU submits petition to J-Board, CRO prepared to fight

BY JAIME KIRZNER-ROBERTS

After two months of waiting, the SSMU has finally filed a petition to the Students' Society's Judicial Board, demanding that its Chief Returning Officer release the results of last November's referendum.

The referendum asked students whether they would support giving the First Year Council Committee a vote on SSMU council. CRO Paul Flicker had initially rejected council's bid to hold the referendum, charging that the SSMU constitution, approved by students in November of 1998, was invalid since it had never actually come into effect because of a series of errors.

"I rejected the question on the grounds that it was unclear," said Flicker, who is a law student at McGill as well as CRO. "Why was it unclear? Because I was uncertain as to which constitution was in force. I'm not sure if [the question refers] to the new constitution or the old constitution."

But SSMU President Andrew Tischler denied that the Student Society constitution was unclear and invalid, and argued that Flicker's accusations were "pure conjecture." He challenged that Flicker was overstepping the bounds of his role as CRO. The portfolio includes ensuring that all referendum and election questions are clear.

On the eve of the referendum, Flicker and Tischler struck a last-minute deal which allowed the polling to be carried out. "I felt that it was unfair to the [executive] committee to cancel the referendum outright," Flicker said. "I agreed to run the referendum on a provisional basis pending a Judicial Board decision."

And while the vote went off in November, Flicker has said he refuses to release the results of the referendum unless the Judicial Board, a body of upper-year law students, decides in favour of Tischler. The Students' Society president waited until last week to submit his petition to the Judicial Board.

"One of the requirements of the J-Board is to make sure that there is no other means to resolve the situation before you make a petition," explained Tischler. "I was hoping Paul Flicker was going to change his mind, and recognize that his declaration was invalid. When it was clear that Paul was going to demand to go to the J-Board, I went and I sought an advocate," he added.

"We ask that the J-Board not consider Paul's declaration overall because he had no right to do what he did," said Tischler.

But Flicker stands by his actions. He asserts that the new SSMU constitution includes typos, discrepancies, and refers to bylaws which no longer exist. Flicker feels that he would not be doing his job as CRO if he did not force the SSMU to deal with its constitutional problems.

"As CRO I am not passing judgement on the validity of the constitution, or on whether or not council has been irresponsible," he said. "All I know is that when you bring a petition to amend the constitution,

that constitution has to be in effect, and in my opinion it's not."

"Basically, I think that the referendum shouldn't have run at that time. I believe that they had to get the constitution in order before amending it," said Flicker. "And once they had brought their house in order, then they could start tinkering with it. I think they've had almost a year now to bring it all into effect, and they haven't done so."

The Judicial Board will contemplate Tischler's petition, and if it is considered to be of merit, they will contact Flicker, and ask him to submit a counter-petition. If the Board rules in Tischler's favour, Flicker will be forced to release the referendum results. If the Board sides with Flicker, the results for the SSMU could be disastrous, as it would mean that they have been operating without a valid constitution for some time.

Both Tischler and Flicker contend that they have a strong case, and both expect that the J-Board will side with them.

In the meantime, FYCC President Sarah Bector will wait expectantly to see whether or not she will have a vote on council.

"The people that are suffering the most are the first-year students," said a frustrated Tischler. "There was an almost unanimous vote on council, I think it was 27-1, to put this question to referendum, and all these people implicitly supported the idea that first-year students should have a vote on council, they should have a voice in the decision-making process in the SSMU."

With files from Zach Dubinsky.



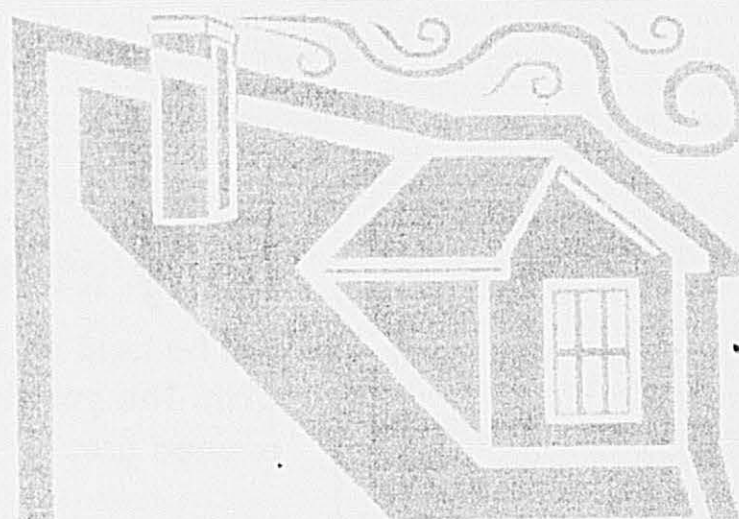
SSMU President Andrew Tischler wants referendum results released.

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A day of workshops with international speakers on Genetic Engineering, the Biosafety Protocol, the World Trade Organization, the Precautionary Principle, and more... (Workshops in English and French) University of Quebec at Montreal (Uqam), pavillon Judith Jasmin, 405 Sainte-Catherine East 2nd floor, room J-2930, near Berri-Uqam metro station.

12 NOON **demonstration** DEPARTURE

BERRI SQUARE—corner of Ste-Catherine and Berri (Berri-Uqam metro station). Rally at Biosafety meeting location - 999, University Street (Square-Victoria metro station).

2 PM **workshops** Same location as morning

7:30 PM **an evening with...** Maude Barlow, Jeremy Rifkin and Chee Yoke Ling introduced by Daniel Pinard Uqam - Pavillon Judith-Jasmin, Marie-Gérin-Lajoie auditorium, metro floor (Berri-Uqam metro station). English/French interpretation available. Doors open at 6:45 PM

All events are free — seating is limited, please come early

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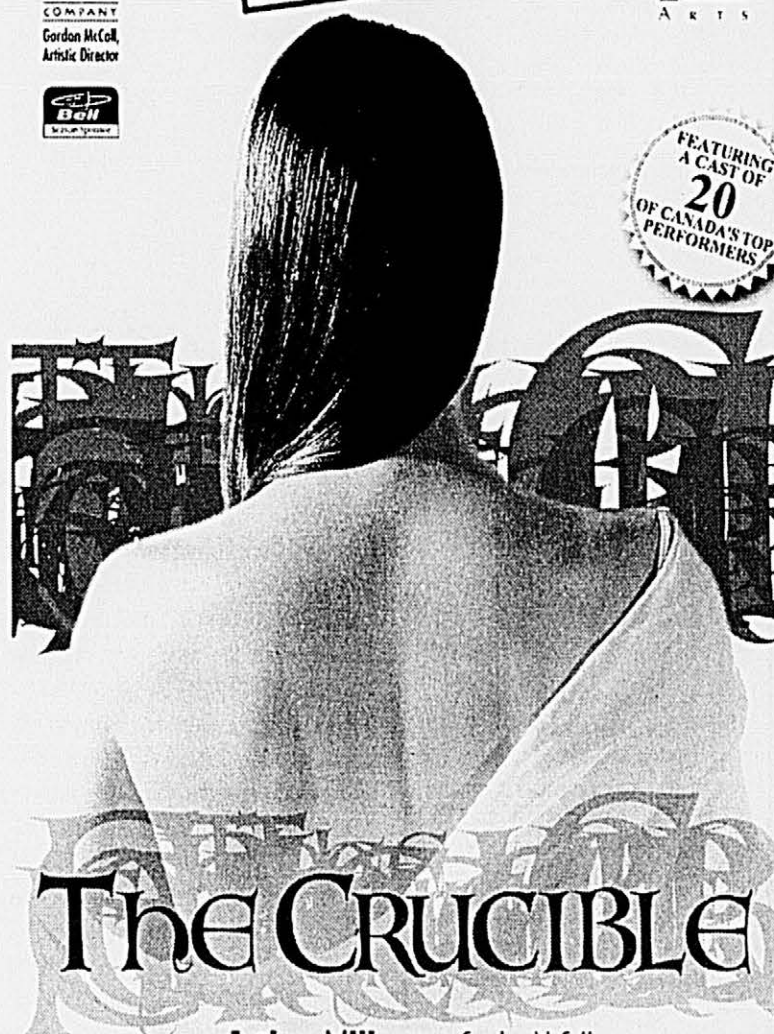
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The CRUCIBLE

by Arthur Miller adapted by Gordon McCall

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letters



LOOPHOLES MAKE US DEMOCRATIC

Re: Daily DIY: Get Away With Murder
(Jan. 17, 2000)

I thought the point of a student newspaper was to offer a student's view on issues in the mainstream media. After all, the ethos of students is somewhat different from the larger society. Why then would you write an editorial entitled "Get Away With Murder" that shows the same trash journalism techniques that I already get in the local and national papers?

I can understand that maybe none of you are in law and therefore discussing

the intricacies of juvenile or international justice isn't your bag, but do you have to write a piece so biased that it makes me wonder if the Daily is really written by students?

As students you know that in making a sound argument, what's more important than what you say is how you support it. Remember all those pesky questions profs like to ask with words like "why?" or "discuss" at the end? There's a point to those. Learning to think critically is a central part of my education, and I want my student newspaper to reflect that.

Your diatribe against "loopholes" in the justice systems of western democracies shows a lack of understanding of those systems. Why is it always the people who are unsatisfied with a court's ruling who cry foul and blame "loopholes"?

Whatever you may think of Pinochet, he was found not fit to stand trial by a court of law. There is nothing special about this

verdict — it happens all the time — because one of the obligations every court has is to assess the merits of proceeding with a case. Sometimes cases are dropped because the defendant is found not fit to stand trial, or because there is not enough evidence, or because a key witness is no longer available. These are not "loopholes" that allow people to evade justice, they are essential features of the system.

Your editorial suggests that we be able to override the system whenever we are "convinced" that someone is guilty, despite the ruling of a court. This view is not only undemocratic, it is a feature of the kind of vigilante justice we find in a police state (the very reason for which you deplore Pinochet).

The flexibility of our system is precisely what makes it democratic. Part of that flexibility includes finding potentially guilty defendants not fit to stand trial. Next time, I'd appreciate it if you put more thought into your editorials and didn't forget who you're writing this paper for.

Martin Bielecki

U2 Arts

IS BARANIAK UNCOMFORTABLE?

"It irritated me, his interruptions, his laughs... he was outright rude." — Wojtek Baraniak

I would like to respond to Mr. Baraniak's open attack on my interventions at the last SSMU council meeting (January 17th issue of The McGill Daily). This personal attack was directed at my comments and questions to the president of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations

(CASA). They seem to have made Mr. Baraniak rather... uncomfortable.

But why? Is he uncomfortable because we are talking of the very association that SSMU joined without any student consultation some years ago? Is he uncomfortable because we are talking of the self-proclaimed "federal lobby" which has publicly given its "continued support" to the Canadian Minister of Finance? Does he feel uneasy, because this is the organisation that has taken, in McGill's name and on his advice, a clear federalist stance (thus infringing on SSMU's own internal policies)? Does he feel that it is wrong to support an association that refuses to deal with any social, labour and environmental issues, in the name of — ironically — education? Is it because he feels that CASA's "pragmatic" approach, despising any form of student activism, is perhaps not the best one?

If Wojtek Baraniak cannot find anything else to say than formulating ad hominem attacks, he must feel very powerless. If he never proposes a referendum to the McGill student population on the CASA issue (even if CASA's president thinks it would be a "great idea"), it may well be because Mr. Baraniak fears the result. His attitude is sadly that of somebody who shows contempt for democracy and student rights.

McGill students have the right to have their say. They have the right to be represented.

François Tanguay-Renaud
VP External, Law Students' Association

Slibel & Lander

Your forum for all the latest campus scoops

The old saying that a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush is perhaps even more applicable when the fowl in question are bird courses. The SSMU student's handbook featured a section outlining bird courses; among them was **Sexual Ethics**. The review claimed that the student in the class "came close to a bad grade in the course through gross negligence," but managed to get full credit by passing in two months worth of assignments two weeks after the end of class. Now the professor is telling his classes that the writer has had his mark significantly reduced for his **flippant remarks**, and not to get any ideas. Apparently the little-known policy that allows profs to change students' marks at anytime while they still attend the university is something to be wary of. So watch

your collective mouths.... Slibel has to report this, even though it bores us to a stupor. Apparently, **The Tisch** is plotting a run for the presidency of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations. Though the Alliance claims to be a student lobby group, they are perhaps best known for handing out hardhats....The campus is abuzz with the news that federal Intergovernmental Affairs Minister **Stephane Dion** will be visiting McGill on Friday. As Dionmania sweeps McGill, we offer up this tidbit gleaned from an "in the know" **PoliSci student**: The honourable Stephane demanded only two things in his dressing room: processed cheese sandwiches with the crusts cut off, and a kilo of green M&Ms. Aspiring Young Liberals, take note...

from the



20 Years Ago: The Daily reported that Quebec's civil service was grossly imbalanced in favour of francophones. The article went on to say that the Parti Quebecois government of Premier René Levesque was intent on rectifying the problem. Only 3 per cent of 60,000 public sector jobs were held by non-francophones, though these accounted for nearly 20 per cent of the population of the province. Also in the news, John Dean, a Nixon politico involved in the US Watergate scandal and the author of *Blind Ambition*, lectured at McGill.

40 Years Ago: The Canadian European Society of McGill organized a 48-hour fast to allow 15 participants to experience "real

hunger pangs" and get a better understanding of the billions of people who have never had enough to eat.

In an editorial, The Daily criticized German chancellor Konrad Adenauer for calling on Germans to administer a "good thrashing" to anyone found committing anti-Jewish acts. "Laudable as this may appear at first glance," the editors wrote, "it is contrary to those basic democratic principles which we in the West had hoped the German people were absorbing. One of the most fundamental of these principles in the rule of law."

60 Years Ago: The Daily reported extensively on McGill's Sadie Hawkins festival atop Mount Royal, where students skied, skated, slipped, and slid. Headlines included "There Was Revelry by Night," "Sadie Takes Her Man to Slide," and the slightly more ambitious "Sadie Hawkins Hastens in Pursuit of Her Quarry."

The Daily also reported that Defence Minister C.D. Howe had ordered \$30-million in naval equipment and aircraft to buttress Canada's war machine.



On Track: Economics Prof Myron Frankman, for speaking out against the MCI. To all the other fence-sitters: If you don't want a private McGill, just say so.

On Crack: Not Manhattan. New York cops just made a huge bust on the East Side. Consequently, the already outrageous prices have skyrocketed.

Daily staff elections

will be held on Thursday, January 27th. The positions that will be opened are:

- **coordinating culture editor**
- **culture editor (2)**
- **online editor**

Must be Daily staff to run. All students who have contributed 6 stories/pictures and/or 3 features and/or 6 three-hour units of production work in the past year qualify as staff. Please see an editor for details. Good luck and Godspeed.

THE MCGILL DAILY

¡Hasta la Vista, America!

comment



BY SEAN CARRIE

The tale of Elian Gonzalez, the young Cuban boy who survived the sinking of a Florida-bound refugee boat he and his mother took passage on last November, has taken on a sadly political turn. With the drowning death of his mother, Elian was placed in the arms of a gaggle of distant relations, all members of Miami's militantly anti-Castro and politically powerful Cuban community. While his father waits in Havana for his son's return, the child is being used at large by his caring American relations and the Castro-loathing US to demonstrate the exemplary life of American citizens, as opposed to the hellish existence enjoyed by those on the evil red island just to the south.

The American Right (a.k.a. the American Wrong) has been screaming bloody murder at the announcement by immigration authorities that Elian was to be returned to Cuba. "If Elian returns to Cuba, misery awaits him," wrote a columnist recently in one major American paper. This is a marvellous demonstration of the ignorance and hysteria with which many Americans approach the issue of Cuba. No argument has, as of yet, demonstrated to me that these rabble-rousers have any idea of why they continue to call for Castro's head, other than that they really did enjoy their positions of prominence and saprophytic lifestyle as Batista cronies.

The same arguments for the continued irrational attitude of the US towards Cuba

are repeated ad nauseum. Brilliant indictments like "It's a dictatorship," "it's poor," and "propagandist policies are enshrined in the constitution," are laughably simplistic. The hand-wringing and statements (always uttered under a brow furrowed with practiced concern) about Cuban life and governmental policy totally ignore the fact that many of the perceived horrors the young Gonzalez would face upon his return to such a nation are paralleled in many of those "normal" nations which the US holds as upstanding democracies. Some of these practices are even carried out in the God-fearing, peace-loving USA.

"All other things can never be equal in a country that treats children - by law - as political raw material to be exploited by the state," wrote the upstanding newspaper columnist. Granted, the US doesn't enshrine this sort of political exploitation in the constitution, but Elian Gonzalez is being used in the same capacity by his loving relatives in Florida, the larger Cuban community, Governor Jeb Bush, and others. Even the House attempted to piece something together to use the child as an example of saving the helpless from the bogeyman.

Communism, though not mine and probably not most peoples' dogma of choice, is a dogma. It is a set of beliefs. Many have used Cuban law 16 as an example of what's wrong with the nation, but fail to recognize the law's parallels throughout the world. One section pertaining to the teaching of "ideological values" and the development of a "communist personality" could just as well apply to any other ideology and any other nation. Many nations, especially Islamic ones, among whom the United States has many allies, espouse the teach-

ing of their respective faiths and beliefs to their youths.

Substitute "Catholic," "Islamic," "Buddhist," etc. into the phrase "communist personality" and the evil miraculously disappears.

Some weep at the thought of Elian going back and facing compulsory military service. How horrific. Perhaps the US should think about allowing children from such regimes as Switzerland, Greece, Taiwan, Singapore, and Turkey to seek refuge. These nations each boast compulsory military service. In some Southeast Asian nations, like Thailand, there is even compulsory religious service. God forbid the poor Thai children be submitted to a year of relentless Theravadic dogma.

Others pity the child's potential exposure to propaganda extolling the virtues of the Cuban government and its history. The mind boggles. They may have to pledge allegiance to the Cuban flag.

I am a pragmatic individual, and am more than willing to change my mind on whether young Mr. Gonzalez should be returned to his father. However, to date, I have seen nothing but poorly considered reasons for perpetuating the US's Lilliputian pointy-end round-end grudge - and rich Cuban exiles longing to return to a life of social disparity. Perhaps these folks should take some more time to consider their ideas.

Of course, then there's the fact that Elian's father is still alive, Elian is still alive, and under any other circumstances the two would be quickly reunited.

At least in Cuba, Elian would have affordable medical coverage, as opposed to his options in the States.



Screw the Red Planet, Just Put a Camera in my Brain

comment



comment

BY TAL PINCHEVSKY

Much has been made of the intrigue and mystique surrounding the planet Mars. Many refer to man's inalienable desire to eventually colonize the red planet and make it as accessible and convenient a haven as the planet on which most of us reside, in body if not in mind. Some would have us believe that the colonization of this planet is simply a natural progression inherent in the fabric of the human species.

Truth be told, the colonization of Mars is vital to prolonging the existence of our species as we have already paved the road towards the eventual exhaustion of this planet's natural resources.

So NASA sends its Mars Polar Lander out into the cosmos in an effort to better understand the big red ball that we want to call our "home from that other polluted

messy home." Last Monday, NASA mission controllers gave up all hope of saving their most recent mission to Mars. This most recent Polar Lander was scheduled to have landed on the surface of Mars on December 3. Since then, controllers have not communicated in the least with the Mars probe. No "hi, how are you?" No "hi, I'm on Mars now." Nothing. So how many so-called disposable funds were spent on this horribly designed contraption? A paltry \$165-million. Chicken feed, right?

Meanwhile, on this planet, a blind New Yorker known only as Jerry who had electrodes implanted in his brain in 1978 and now wearing a camera wired directly into his brain is able to read large letters and navigate around large objects. The 62-year-old doesn't see images. Rather he perceives up to 100 specks of light that appear and disappear as his field of vision shifts. These remarkable remnants of sight are a remarkable enhancement for a man who has been blind for over 25 years.

To use this device, Jerry wears sunglasses with a tiny pinhole camera mounted on one lens and an ultrasonic range finder on the other. Both devices communicate directly with a computer carried on Jerry's hip, which highlights the edges between light and dark areas in the camera image. It then tells an adja-

cent computer to send the appropriate signals to a group of electrodes on the surface of Jerry's brain through wires entering his skull. Now THAT'S technology.

So how is it that hundreds of millions of dollars are spent researching a planet that, as far as scientists know, is uninhabitable, rather than using technology and money to benefit the lives of the people that are living right now? At this rate in NASA's missions to Mars, our grandchildren won't be alive to see the colonization of that irritated pimple of the Milky Way.

Would it be inconceivable to transplant some of those funds towards the enhancement of the lives of people that need the specific attention that technology provide? Around the same time that scientists presented Jerry to the world, other doctors conducted the first ever two-arm transplant, reflecting the massive progress being made in medical technology.

Why is it that we are not nearly as impressed by such medical miracles as we are with a defective Polar Lander being sent to a barren freezing planet? Assess the priorities of our people and before we stare and drool in perpetual amazement at things we know nothing about, let's reaffirm to one another that some things are best left undiscovered while others possess some semblance of importance.

MERELY MUSING



ZACHSKY

Why Bell Toils

So why does Bell Canada preach its Call Waiting gospel with such zeal? (see this column, January 13) What drives innumerable other companies - Disney, Rogers media, or CarrierAir - to similarly compel consumers to vacation at their theme parks, subscribe to their German superchannels, and get their air ducts cleaned thrice yearly? Was our economy always like this?

The story begins with the latter question, to which the answer is an easy no.

Prior to the Neolithic Revolution of 10,000 BCE, everyone on this planet worked simply to subsist. No one had any surplus income for things like movies, vacations, or VistaPhone service. Even as recently as 1900, the majority of the population of the Western world was still employed in agriculture. But a profound shift was well underway.

The Industrial Revolution, begun in the mid-1700s in Britain, brought such tremendous gains in productivity that by the time the industrial era reached its peak - arguably during the post-Second World War Golden Age - Americans could comfortably speak of a neverending prosperity; every family would own a house, a TV, two cars, and a refrigerator.

What the Golden Age prophets couldn't foresee was market saturation. Because industrialization had been so successful, because mass-produced goods had become so cheap, because the average middle-class family could afford a TV, two cars, and the fridge, they bought these goods. But once nearly everyone owned them, how could this prosperity continue? What products would people buy in order to drive the economy? After all, who really needs a second house, or a third car?

In short, because so many people already had so many things, and because successive advances in technology provide decreasing gains in productivity, the economy started to head towards stagnation. Western society faced a crisis: with the decreasing marginal productivity of technology, and the static productivity of most services, the standard of living threatened to remain constant.

Harvard sociologist Daniel Bell predicted the stumbling block in his 1973 book, *The Coming of Post-Industrial Society*. Discussing the growth in the expectation and provision of social services that accompanied the Golden Age, Bell wrote that the productivity problem "comes to a head in the cities...because the bulk of municipal expenditures - education, hospitals, police, social services - falls into the non-progressive sector of the economy, and there are few real economies or gains...Yet it is productivity that allows the social pie to expand."

"The simple and objective fact is that productivity and output grow much faster in goods than in services," wrote Bell.

Even earlier in the 1960s, Rand Institute mathematician Richard Bellman predicted that by the year 2000, only 2 per cent of all human labour in the West would go towards necessary goods - food, clothing, shelter, transport.

Bellman's estimate missed the mark, but American sociologist Fred Block recently foresaw an era in which a more likely 15 per cent of all labour would produce life's necessities.

But what neither considered, and what few people probably realize today, is what this shift towards non-necessities means for society - particularly since the non-necessities comprise mainly services that can achieve precious few gains in productivity.

Bell Canada's Call Waiting evangelism represents just the tip of the iceberg. Call Waiting costs little-to-nothing to invent and implement, but without it and similar wanton services, corporate profits would be in freefall.

If my analysis is correct, we should be witnessing the following phenomena:

- Since the shift to non-progressive services fetters standard-of-living increases, real wages should be fairly constant.

- Check - depending on whose estimates you follow, real family income in Canada hasn't increased for 10 years, and the real income of the lower 80 per cent of US income-earners hasn't risen for 30 years.

- Since the rich own the corporations that generate wealth, and therefore get first grabs at diminishing economic surpluses, the disparity between rich and poor should be widening.

- Check - worldwide income disparity between the richest and poorest quintiles of income earners has doubled in the last 20 years.

- Since economic value is shifting away from concrete goods to things abstract, we should be witnessing increases in brand equity and advertising.

- Check - for more on this, read next issue's feature on Naomi Klein.

The real kicker has yet to come. So far, the West has been able to maintain delicate standard-of-living increases by parcelling off production of its goods to the Third World, where cheap labour keeps down the final cost of goods.

But this can't last forever. Eventually the Third World will be reach peak production capacity, labour standards will force wages upwards, and the West will face an economic crisis of Marxian proportions. I'll elaborate more on this crisis next Monday.

The Kids Aren't Alright

Today's younger people aren't like you and me

BY TAL PINCHESKY

On the surface, Nathaniel Abraham does not appear to be all that different from any other 13-year-old boy.

Like most other young boys his age, he still hasn't quite grown into his body, and his wrinkled brow and wide eyes betray a mix of youthful exuberance and the confusion of assuming a new role as he grows up.

But Abraham is not a regular 13-year-old boy. Abraham has been in Michigan state custody for the past two years after a conviction for the murder of an 18-year-old male named Ronnie Greene Jr. Abraham was 11 when the crime was committed.

Last Thursday, Judge Eugene Moore sentenced Abraham to be held in a juvenile detention centre until he reaches 21. Whether or not he is rehabilitated by that time, Abraham will be released from the juvenile facility.

A path of controversy follows the plight of this young boy. Most notable among the issues is the idea of long-term incarceration as an inhibitor of crime among young people. "The real solution is to prevent an adult criminal population ever from coming into existence. We cannot see incarceration as a long-term solution," stated Judge Moore prior to Abraham's sentencing.

If the Abraham case were an isolated incident, it would be far easier to rationalize these issues. If Abraham represents the exception to the rule however, it is because he killed just one person.

The sentencing of Abraham comes within weeks of the sentencing of 17-year-old Kip Kinkel, a young boy who in May, 1998, at the age of 15, killed both his parents and then took his murderous spree with him to school, where he killed two more and injured several others. Last November, Kinkel was sentenced to 112 years in prison on four counts of murder and 26 counts of attempted murder.

The rampage began after Kinkel was expelled from school on May 20 for having a stolen pistol in his locker. The expulsion resulted in Kinkel entering the school cafeteria just as classes began and squeezing off 50 rounds of ammunition from a .22-calibre semi-automatic rifle in about 90 seconds. In the end, as students wrestled Kinkel to the ground, he pleaded with them to kill him.

It is dangerously naive to think that these are isolated incidents in the scope of Western youth. Since 1996, alienated young people have initiated numerous incidents of massive violence. In fact, since March, 1998, these incidents have taken place with alarming frequency. Thirteen documented cases of such violence since that time have resulted in the murder of no less than 28 people. The following list outlines the more notable of the incidents as well as other disasters that were narrowly averted:

- March 24, 1998: Two Arkansas boys, aged 11 and 13, kill five and injure 10 during a false fire alarm.

- May 19, 1998: Three days before his graduation, an 18-year-old honour student opens fire in a parking lot, killing a classmate who was dating his ex-girlfriend. One same day, two boys are suspended from school after being accused of writing and handing out threatening notes to classmates.

- April 20, 1999: Two young men wearing black trench coats open fire in a suburban high school in Littleton, Colorado, killing 13 people and then themselves.

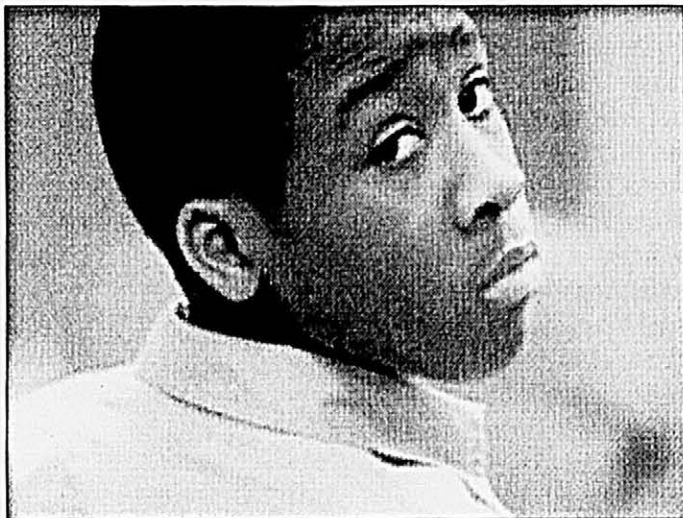
- November 19, 1999: A 12-year-old boy shoots and kills a female classmate at the end of lunch hour with a .22-calibre handgun.

Young people's activities have regressed from simple juvenile behaviour to bloody criminal acts. For example, on May 21, 1998, there were four separate incidents in the United States that were highlighted by some sort of show of aggression by young people. Other than the Kinkel incident, incidents on that day include the shooting of a 15-year-old Houston boy when a gun in the backpack



Kip Kinkel killed both his parents.

of a 17-year-old classmate went off; a 15-year-old Washington boy shooting himself after threatening his girlfriend with a gun; and the discovery of three sixth-grade boys in Missouri with a hit-list of classmates they wanted to kill.



Nathaniel Abraham was 11 when he murdered Ronnie Greene.

A recent report in the New York Times found a fivefold increase in incidents of homicide and suicide among young people in the last 40 years. Most experts attribute the increase to a jump in depression

and anger, especially among young males, as well as access to guns.

While it may appear that this is exclusively an American phenomenon, similar instances of teenage violence are occurring throughout Canada, although not at the same level or frequency. Shortly after the mass-murder in Littleton, a copycat murder took place in a small school in Alberta. Gun-control legislation in the United States might facilitate this kind of violent behaviour, but that doesn't mean young Canadians don't share these same tendencies.

The issue of teen homicide is accentuated, if not complemented, by the great focus placed on the teenage market by all facets of conventional media. As young people aged 11 to 17 become a far more lucrative demographic, television, film, and other industries place more emphasis on them. The majority of these media now portray more adult themes in a teenage context. The end result of this saturation of teenage attention is that young people assume more adult roles and responsibilities and, inevitably, adult consequences, not because their parents expect it of them, but because media demands it of them.

Valerie Smith of C-CAVE and Mediawatch reaffirms the negative affects of this market exploitation. "The thing is that this is not a new trend," said Smith. "For a long time now, many groups including the American Psychological Association and UNESCO have confirmed the negative effects of popular media on young people, especially regarding violence. It is better documented than the connection between cigarettes and cancer. The research is very solid, but the

more plentiful lifestyle in the Western world, they are increasingly uninvolved in the lives of their children.

Among other things, the media has been criticized for glamorizing adult situations with young people. Shows aimed entirely at young people such as *Dawson's Creek*, *Felicity*, and *Party of Five* have presented these types of situations without any sort of parental intervention or even assistance. The portrayal of young people as entirely self-sufficient eventually leads to decisions that could be considered at least somewhat irrational.

Smith recounts the effects of media on the mental health of young people: "It definitely affects their mental health, but again this is not a recent trend. This kind of thing can be traced back 20 years with what I call the 'teeny kill' trend. This is portrayed in films like *Nightmare on Elm Street* which, despite their adult rating, are aimed directly at young people."

It does appear, however, that the portrayal of young people in adult situations might have actually proven to be beneficial to young people. It appears that the popular media does have a hand in the declining birth rate and incidence of cigarette addiction among young people. It also appears, though, that exposing young people to these



adult situations might have displayed a whole new adult world to a section of the population that should still be appreciating youth and innocence.

One anonymous McGill student voiced his discontent with the attempt by today's youth to take on some sort of adult visage. "I remember being 15 years old and appreciating youth and being stupid. Now kids that age are regularly engaging in casual sex, drug use, and senseless violence," he said.

"I used to have little trouble teasing the less popular kids in school. It was just part of the student hierarchy. If I was that age today, I would have to worry about those kids I tortured coming to school and killing me."



I'm not really a teenager but I play one on TV.

Reality Betrayed

Bennitta Hoffmann's unorthodox photography opens at Optica

BY SARI LONG

When an image distorts reality, it is called art. But when realistic photography distorts reality, refer to it as Bennitta Hoffmann's newest exhibit at the Optica Gallery.

Painfully honest, yet staged art is the theme in this exhibit which opened this past Friday. *Untitled* (1999) portrayed two women in a bedroom, one sitting half-clothed on the smoothly made bed. The other stands above and behind her in business clothing, showing an anger obvious in her near-fist gesture. Both without make-up, they have the exact same chin-length brown hair and tousled bangs. Only as the viewer begins to feel uncomfortable in witnessing such an intimate and emotionally charged scene, the realization that the two women are identical crystallizes.

In fact, on further inspection, it is evident that each of the eight photographs in the gallery also feature the same brown-haired woman; who is Bettinna Hoffmann herself. Using digitally manipulated images, the Berlin-born Hoffmann has created photographs examining the different aspects of her personality using her own image multiple times in each piece.

Hoffmann's highly personal portraits show the side of life that often remains unseen — the disheveled, honest, and brutally harsh realities of women and their complex relationships. Her work is seen as a comment on the "community of women and the identity of women in the age of post-feminism."

To the average art lover, however, her work reaches a primitive, secretive level. We see how varied her own issues and character, and similarly, those of women's come across in this unique medium.

She chooses to show the darker, more pensive sides of female interaction so familiar that the women might as well be sisters, lovers, or best friends. Hoffmann displays the intangible and raw human sentiment

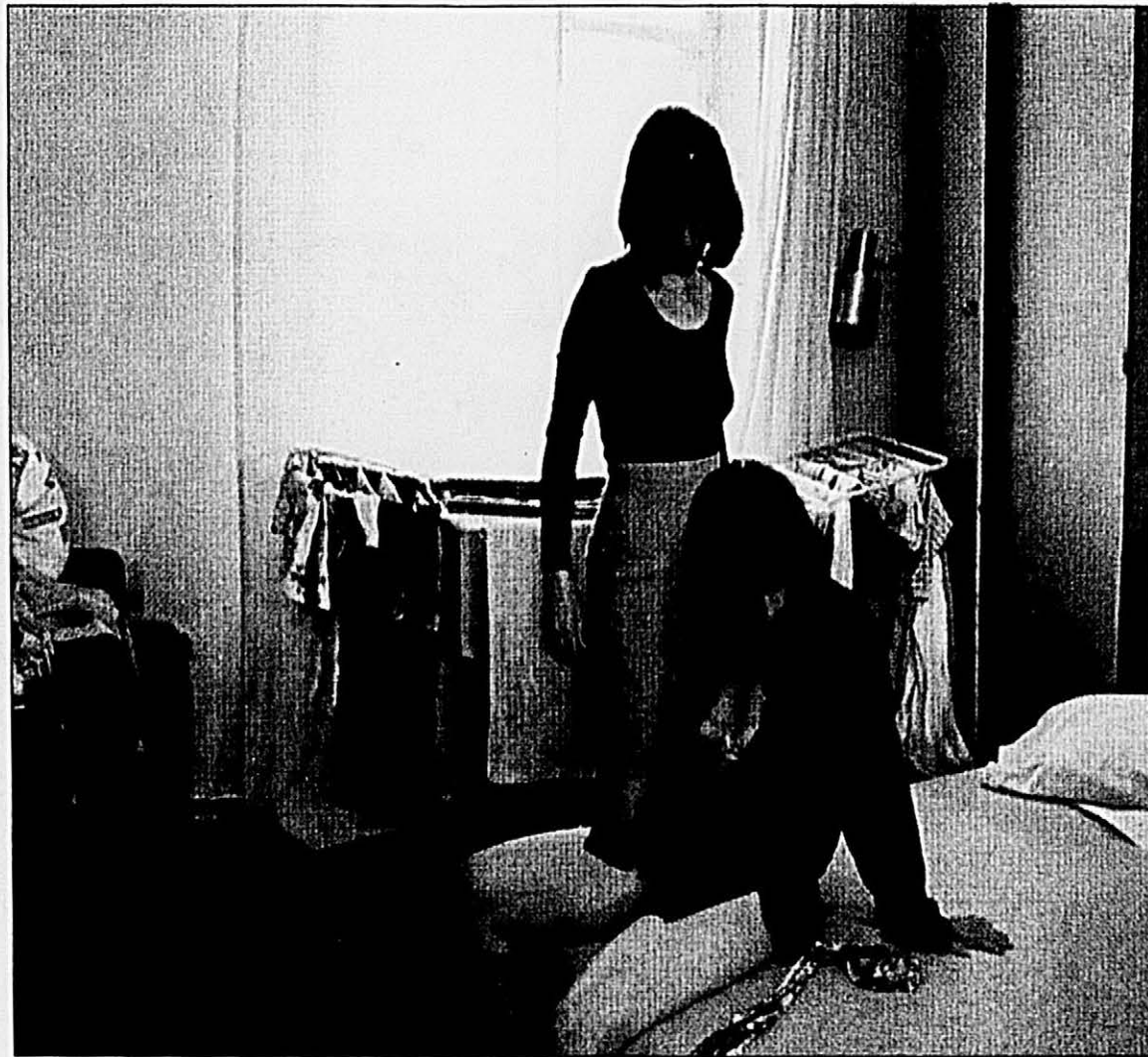
in an intense two-dimensional experience. In these seemingly film-still shots, the qualities of expectation and imagination work together to allow the viewer to create infinite causes and outcomes for each situ-

ation. An impending conflict, an unresolved issue, or an upcoming confrontation aren't out of the realm of possibility, and one is allowed to think freely. Hoffmann's outstanding ability to be such a flexible actress lends depth to these captured dramas, and her work is starkly true and replete with the difficulties of reality.

What troubles photography purists is the fact that Hoffmann's work is not real — it is a created and artfully executed scene that existed only in the mind's eye of the creator herself. While these traditionalists lament the fact that photography is supposedly the last honest and unmistakable art form, the created reality in these works speaks for themselves.

Hoffmann has taken the impossible and made it possible, using self portraits to convey the numerous inextricable faces of human interaction. The impact is honest, yet the creation of it is not, and the intimacy of each scene is undeniably true to life. Reality couched in distinctly unique and created scenes reveal the serious and private lives of women and their diverse personalities, as well as Hoffmann's own inner thoughts.

Bennitta Hoffmann's Affaires Infinies will run until February 19 at 372 Sainte-Catherine St. West, Suite 508. Call (514) 874-1666. The gallery is open from 12 pm to 5 pm daily and admission is free.



Hoffmann's Untitled (1999): A case of cloning gone awry

Throat-singing His Way Through Asia

A soul man with a gift embarks on a trip to the geometric centre of Asia in Genghis Blues

BY ILAN MUSKAT

Syrgyt. Kargyraa. Tuva. Kongar-ol Ondar. Chandaara. Alien words? A foreign language?

These words take on meaning to a Western audience as *Genghis Blues* unfolds. An already-award-winning documentary by Chicago's Belic brothers, this film follows blind bluesman Paul Pena through his discovery, and eventual mastery, of "throat-singing," a traditional technique of singing several notes at once, which is indigenous to the land of Tuva. Pena's connection to throat-singing, and to Tuva itself, turns out to be so natural as to seem predestined.

Despite the inevitable plucking away at familiar heartstrings, Pena's story and the events it catalyzes are gripping, thanks to expertly executed documentary-style shooting.

Pena is indeed an incredible musician — his background playing blues with B.B. King, John Lee Hooker and other blues giants gives us a sense of his talent, but the sound of his "kargyraa-style" throat-singing will probably be a new experience for the audience. It's a bewitching, hypnotic

ic sound — somewhere between shamanistic chanting and science-fiction-soundtrack theremin, with accompanied by banjo-plucking. For the musicians in the crowd, Kargyraa itself actually involves the production of sub-fundamental harmonics which earns Pena the moniker "Earthquake."

Not that words begin to describe it.

So the movie's a bit of a rock-umentary. Pena's got as much soul as Elwood or Jake could ever hope for, but the fact that he's blind, fearful and often paralyzed by confusion about his surroundings, is pure pathos. We're doing okay so far: the story of one man's struggle to overcome.

Enter the Friends of Tuva, a fringe organization inspired by the late Nobel Laureate Richard Feynmann, and their mission to actually bring Paul Pena to Tuva. It's a country wedged between Siberia and Mongolia and the historical home of Genghis Khan's greatest general, Subotai, conqueror of Europe.

Still following?

The balance of the movie is spent on an adventure through Tuva, as Pena travels with the film crew, a couple of other musicians, a wisecracking DJ and Kongar-ol

Ondar, 1992 champion of syrgyt-style throat-singing and all-around Tuvan superhero.

There's no shortage of natural beauty in Tuva. Fields, shamanistic ceremonies, mountains and deserts evoke the traditional past of the country, which has miraculously endured through conquest by China, Mongolia, and ultimately the Soviet Union. It's almost like seeing a new world. The civilization imposed on the land by the Soviet occupiers dots the landscape with buildings and roads like scars.

Into this walks Pena, speaking the old Tuvan language and singing his kargyraa, rapidly becoming a popular hero to this land he's never seen.

The only thing lacking from this movie is perhaps a deeper explanation of how the bizarre, powerful sounds of throat-singing are produced by a human larynx. But

maybe that's just intellectual curiosity.

This movie reaches beyond that to true emotional fulfillment: the music speaks very loudly, and late in the film, Kongar-ol says to Paul Pena: "with my hoomei, my syrgyt, and my kargyraa, I will tell you of my home."

Pena couldn't see the beauty of Tuva for himself, but we can, and you definitely should. It's a rare and beautiful trip.

Genghis Blues is playing at Cinéma du Parc (3575 Parc) from January 21 to February 3.

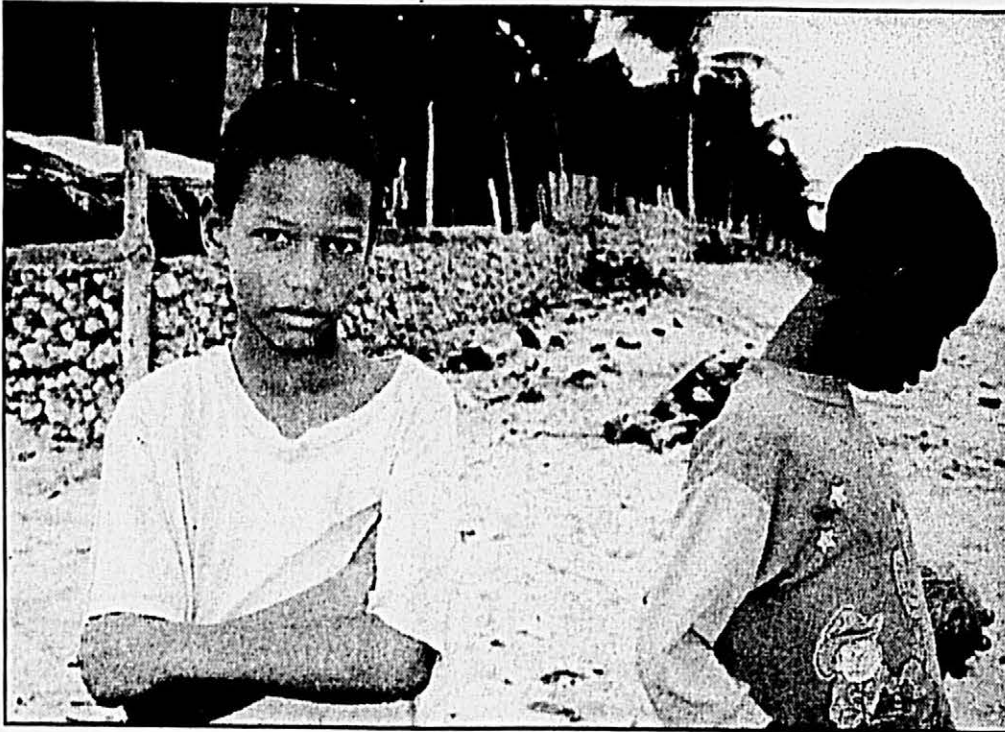


Paul Pena and Kongar-ol Ondar jammin' together on the shores of the Hemchik River, where Kongar-ol Ondar was born.

December 30, 1999

BY PIERRE-ALAIN PARFOND

Two days before entering the "future," I was in the Dominican Republic, under the sun and happy to realize that only Westerners know about dvd and other *virtual insanities*® and think they represent the Good Life. But No!!! People there are friendly, stressless, and have a great life with just enough money to eat and party. It was a great vacation.



Fraternity is Key: Supreme Court Justice

BY SAMIRA RAHMANI

Moort Court was packed last Wednesday evening as law students and faculty members came to hear this year's Alumni Lecture delivered by Supreme Court Justice Charles Gonthier.

His speech, entitled "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity - The Forgotten Leg of the Trilogy" began rather dramatically with

Gonthier declaring fraternity as the "unspoken third pillar of democracy." Citing countries such as France and India that include fraternity within their legal systems, Gonthier questioned its official absence within the Canadian legal system. He acknowledged fraternity as the "glue that binds liberty and democracy to civil society" and one that furthers certain goals such as empathy, cooperation, commitment, fairness, and

equity within a community.

Giving examples from tax, family, and private law, Gonthier demonstrated that though not officially part of the legal system in Canada, fraternity does in fact have a place here. He pointed to the Quebec Charter of Human Rights, which is unique in having a "good samaritan" clause. Gonthier argued that this clause, which effectively grants the right to assistance to any human

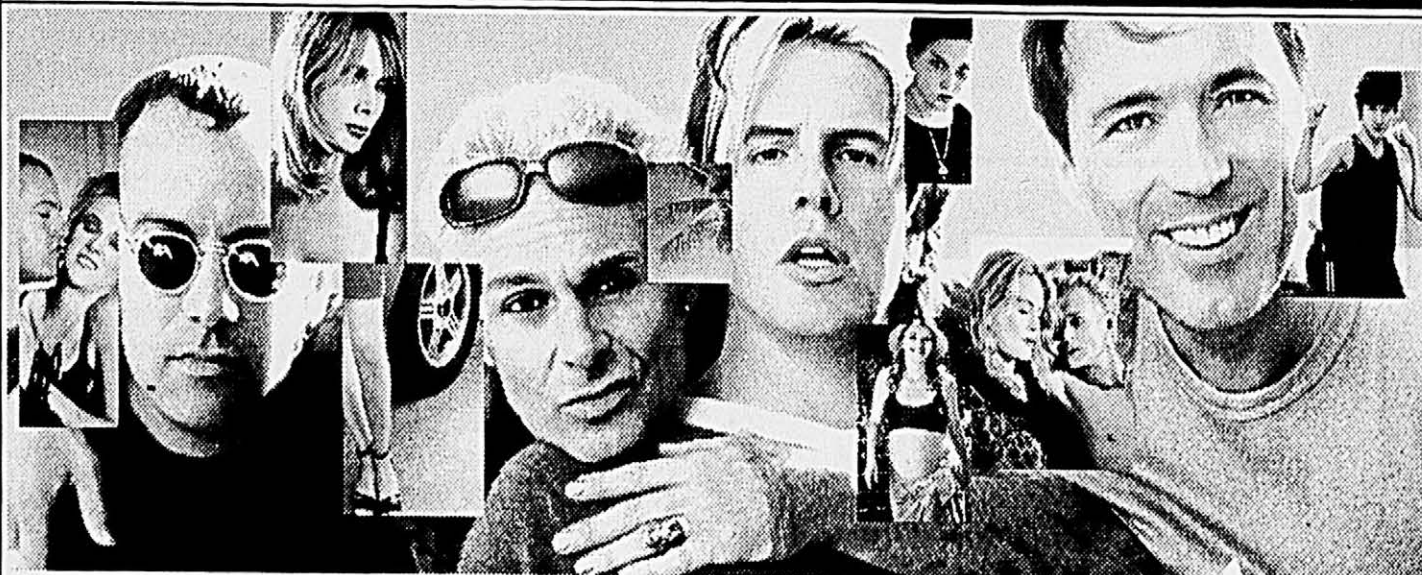
being whose life is in peril, is a "manifestation of fraternal values."

During the brief question period provided, Law Students' Association executive member Francois Tanguay-Renaud pressed the judge on a recent Supreme Court decision that granted rights to same-sex couples. Tanguay-Renaud asked why the judge had dissented from majority if fraternity was indeed the core value underlying the

legal system. Obviously uncomfortable with the question, Gonthier said that Parliament and the legislators did not provide for any other decision to be made and cited judicial self-restraint as the basis for decision.

A 1951 graduate of McGill's law program, Gonthier is an avid supporter of McGill and a trustee of the McGill Law Journal, which hosted the event last Wednesday evening.

The Daily's Black History Month Special Issue hits newsstands on February 10th. We're looking for your help. Come on down to Shatner B-03 and talk to Jaime for details.



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Ashley MacIsaac : Fiddler on a Hot Seat

Record company stands by controversial artist

BY NICOLA HANSON

HALIFAX (CUP) - Ashley MacIsaac's record company, Loggerhead Records, will not drop him from their roster despite their disapproval of his actions at The Underground in Halifax on New Year's Eve.

MacIsaac was pulled off the stage shortly after 1 am after hurling racial slurs and obscenities at the crowd attending the New Year's Eve rave.

"We are offended by Ashley's recent behaviour. Loggerhead does not support or condone it in any way," said Loggerhead President Andrew McCain in a prepared statement. "Loggerhead Records Inc. is involved in Mr. MacIsaac's career only to the extent of selling his records. Our man-

agement, staff, and roster of bands wish to completely disassociate ourselves from his behaviour."

MacIsaac responded to the statement by telling a Toronto Sun reporter that he is "disgusted" by public criticism from Loggerhead executives and that he no longer wants to do business with them.

Loggerhead Vice-President Paul Church said there are no immediate plans to release MacIsaac from his contract. They are hoping he "straightens up and flies right."

Meanwhile, MacIsaac is scheduled to perform at several clubs across Canada and many promoters have good reason to be nervous. A MacIsaac concert in Halifax this month was cancelled.

Many Canadians have posted their feel-

ings about MacIsaac's New Year's Eve performance at his Web site-ashley-macisaac.com. The postings range from mild to offensive, and the majority were non-supportive.

"Looks like you got a lot of explaining to do, buddy boy. By the way, a new lyric that you will soon need: 'you want fries with that,'" read one posting.

Another read, "you pathetic excuse for a Cape Bretoner."

One of the few positive remarks was, "A little bit of publicity goes a long way and a whole lot more people know about you now. You win some and lose some, but I think in the end you will gain. Keep on speaking your mind and if they don't like it fuck them."

LITERARY RANT

The Dusk Criticisms

BY LOUIS CHOQUETTE

We are about to lash out, explode into manifestations of absurd physical violence. All of us fed on tam promises of fulfilling materialistic living are about to reject Consciousness, are about to revert to animalistic destruction, transcend ourselves in a stunning symbolic suicide. Exaggeration? Most definitely. We are too domesticated for action. Think, oh God, of the potential loss of financial and emotional security. We would rather inflict a lobotomy upon ourselves, get a university education, take pride in faking smiles and orgasms.

I hate to see us drowning in our glorified mediocrity. I cannot stand the sound and smell of tortured individuality, true individuality. Not a bachelor's degree, not a token romantic link, not pot and vomit and socialism and activism and travelling and gorging on Hollywood myths, on

social prostitution. True individuality. Our right to expression, to sensuality, to choosing unrecognized, informal paths to learning and elation. True individuality, becoming Unconscious.

All our escapism hints at a burning desire for unconsciousness. Crawl into any night club on any undistinguished party street. You will find us throbbing to stark tribal noises, drowning our central cortex with alcoholic acidities of choice, stealing furtive touches at the beckoning flesh of the opposite sex. All our actions scream out our depravity. The slashing paradoxes that hurt more than any binge side-effect. The "fact" that we are educated yet know nothing of ourselves and our significance. The "fact" that we are sexually liberated and yet have lost all notions of eroticism, tenderness, and care. The "fact" that we are all so confident in our formal purposes when in truth we are empty, empty, empty... Long live the educated tabula rasa!

Being locked in the mechanism of our saturated lives, it is hopeless to attempt to refocus our ways, aims, actions. The paradox-tattoo knows no removal. Our stomach is well accustomed to banal, trashy episodes. A total change would be a disconnection from our identity life-support, our assigned role and importance. Our special taming has taken us too far...

Pessimism once more? No, that too is a socially-modified state. We must search like rats in the sewers of society to uncover fundamental principles of fulfillment. We must learn how to care only for intrinsic things, mix integrity and tenderness into our relationships. We must accept the fact that posterity will reject the majority of us, that a bachelor's degree is essentially a stamp of approval for access to social and financial levels, that the "happy" way we live is fundamentally the darkness in which we hide our deprived nakedness.

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What do Dailyites read?

Read a review of Naomi Klein's *No Logo* in Monday's issue.

THE MCGILL DAILY

Companies Battle on the Web for Student Dollars

BY MASON WRIGHT

BURNABY, BC (CUP) - Back in the early 1990s, post-secondary students were one of the first groups to begin using the internet as a tool for communication and information.

Now, web-based companies like CollegeClub and ProfessorJones are trying to use the medium to create meaningful online "communities."

"Everybody needs to have a forum where they can express themselves," said Thomas Mallen, a University of Guelph student reached via CollegeClub's instant messaging system. As he explained, "students can interact and talk about issues in their lives."

But the draw of student internet portals and web sites goes well beyond simple chat sessions with other students. While student-led discussion groups and electronic bulletin boards are a mainstay on many sites, others include news content, discount textbook sales, free email, information about colleges and universities, job search tips and student art galleries.

Some sites try to cover the whole range of services, while others are more specialized.

But while the internet represents vast access to information for Canadian students, for many companies it's a lucrative way to reach the highly sought-after 18-to-24-year-old demographic. And despite the infancy of internet technologies, the industry is already very competitive.

THE PLAYERS

One internet portal that has captured the attention of post-secondary students is CollegeClub, arguably the industry leader in the United States. It allows site members to interact with each other through discussion groups, chat groups, and message services.

This means most of the site's content is member-driven, though CollegeClub also provides news content and shopping options directed towards students.

In Canada, meanwhile, several companies are fighting it out in cyberspace.

ProfessorJones, an Ottawa-based site targeted specifically at Canadians, was soft-launched - or released on a trial basis - in 1997 as an online textbook store called TextExpress.

The original success of TextExpress in its home province of Ontario led president and founder Alex de Bold to launch it nationally in September 1999 as an elaborated student portal, featuring academic resources and online collaboration tools for students.

This month, de Bold is doing a new launch in response to the feedback he received from the estimated 30,000 users his site entertains each month.

"The web site now customizes itself based on what campus you go to," said

New web sites target the lucrative youth market, offering everything from free dial-up access to \$10,000 'scholarships'

the 25-year-old University of Ottawa graduate. "It'll give you links to your campus, like your financial aid centre or your student newspaper."

Another group entering the student portal game is the campus press. This past September, Campus News was soft-launched by Canadian University Press, a national co-operative of 72 student newspapers. Tariq Hassan-Gordon, president of CUP, says the organization has always wanted to produce a publication for a national student audience. Its site features news content, which it assembles from member newspapers.

Finally, Montreal-based uPath is planning a hard launch - or full release - accompanied by aggressive promotions and expanded site features sometime this month.

Like other por-

GIMMICKS

One of the most effective hooks is a give-away or contest. ProfessorJones, for example, required users to sign up for the site before they could enter a free tuition contest in the fall, while little-known American portal CampusStation is promoting its \$10,000 open scholarship to students in places like Ottawa.

Meanwhile, uPath's current hook is free, unlimited internet access.

"If [students] are paying for it right now, it's something that will draw them to us," explained Starr. "Once they become used to

Carolyn Weiss, a 24-year-old Carleton

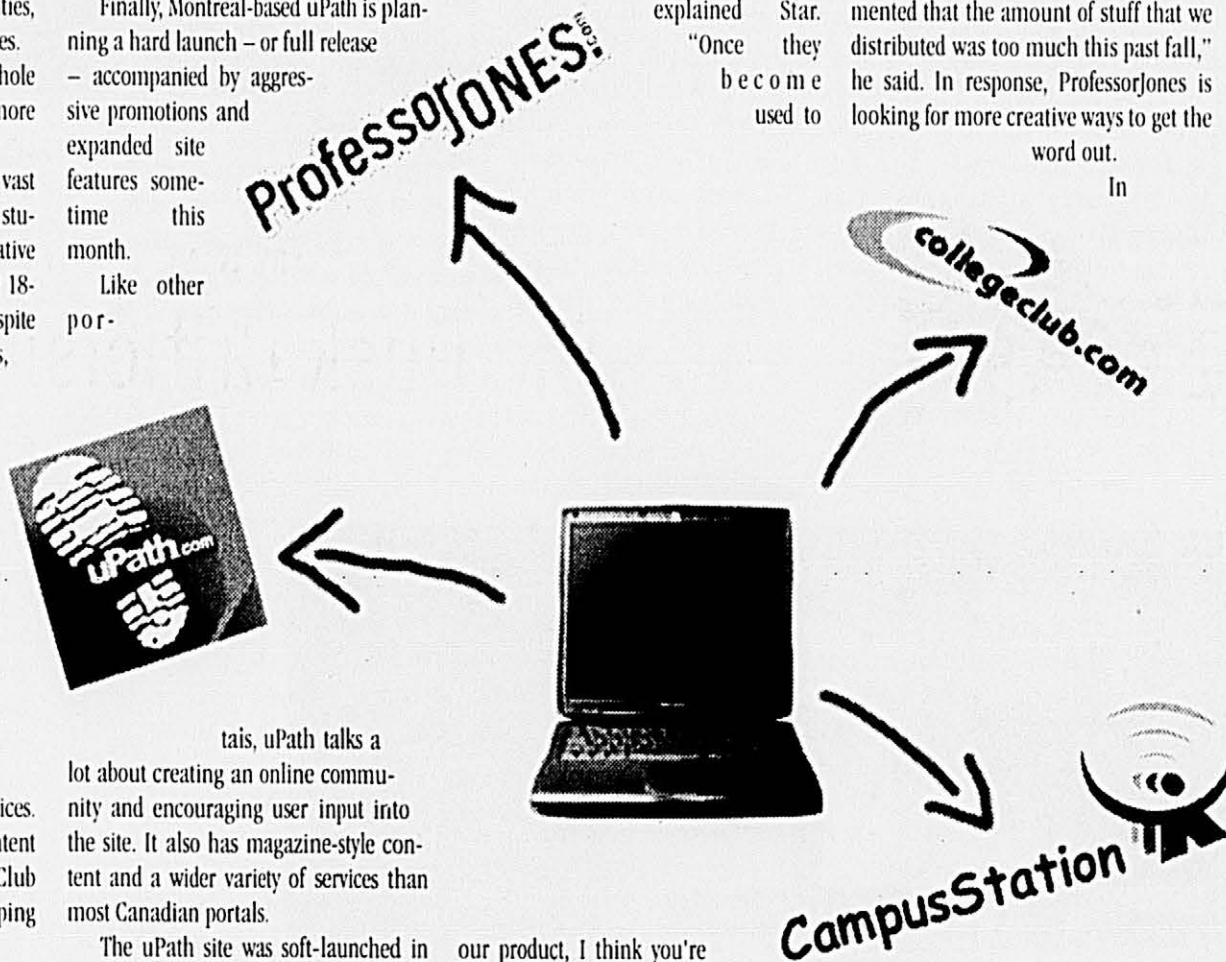
University student. "It wasn't, but hey, I had to join to find that out."

The most popular promotional trick, however, is still advertising, and in the student internet portal industry, companies have gone well beyond traditional poster campaigns and newspaper ads.

At first, more established portals like CollegeClub and ProfessorJones found that creating a presence on campuses with posters and handout offers was the way to go. But not everyone appreciated that technique, says de Bold.

"I know that some people have commented that the amount of stuff that we distributed was too much this past fall," he said. In response, ProfessorJones is looking for more creative ways to get the word out.

In



tais, uPath talks a lot about creating an online community and encouraging user input into the site. It also has magazine-style content and a wider variety of services than most Canadian portals.

The uPath site was soft-launched in the fall to a handful of large Canadian campuses, and company president Adam Starr says the company used feedback from students to direct improvements.

Many of these sites are part of a noticeable trend in the industry - feeling out the market in fall 1999, and then proceeding with either a hard launch or a return to the drawing board to tinker with the online product.

"I think that when we began this journey almost a year ago," said uPath's Starr, "we recognized that fall '99 was going to be the season that you were going to see this influx of online properties catering toward university and college students."

As for why that is, de Bold of ProfessorJones says it just took this long to be able to acquire the resources for a national launch of his product.

our product, I think you're going to see a loyal base to uPath.com."

According to Hassan-Gordon, Starr's philosophy seems to work. CUP is currently running a national hockey pool through the Campus News site, and it has generated continued traffic that has exceeded the organization's expectations.

"It hasn't been heavily promoted, but we've still sustained a number of impressions [visits] that I think shows the potential," he said.

But gimmicks seem to leave a bit of a bad taste in users' mouths. One of CollegeClub's recent ideas was to hire a team of students to roam campuses, take pictures of other students with a digital camera, and point them to the site where the photos would be posted.

"They told us it would be here," said

December, ProfessorJones bought Re*source, a student lifestyle magazine that distributes on campuses all over Canada. De Bold says the plan is to rename the magazine ProfessorJones and re-launch it later this month.

According to internet analyst Broadhead, it's a smart move.

"They've got a toehold in the offline market now," he said. "They've got a traditional marketing vehicle to use to direct traffic to their online site, and I'm sure they'll reinforce each other."

Another site that has its own ideas about advertising is uPath. With "Team uPath," the company employs students at 15 to 20 campuses. The students are expected to raise the profile of the portal by making deals with groups like campus

bars and student bands.

"We provide collateral to those venues," explained Starr, "and in return they post up our banners in their bars during particular events and during their concerts." The relationship extends to the site, where bands are profiled in the "Sound Lounge" section.

But not all sites have promotion strategies as creative as these. Campus News, for example, has a tight budget, so it's tried to make use of the resources at its disposal. "CUP is in an ideal situation, in partnership with its members, to promote a web site at a very low cost," said Hassan-Gordon. Since their own content gets exposure on the site, CUP's member papers have incentive to run ads for it in their publications, with the added benefit being increased ad revenue for the organization as Campus News gains popularity.

"And the great thing about it is it's a revenue stream for CUP, so we can just reinvest the money [from banner ads] into developing the site," Hassan-Gordon adds.

Because it is owned by student newspapers and doesn't have to spend as much on marketing, says Hassan-Gordon, Campus News won't be sold to non-students like some of the other "fly-by-night" portals that put more money into marketing than content and services.

"I think the model right now is that if you invest a lot of money in marketing, and then you drive traffic to your site, then you can turn around and sell it to another company," he said.

But ProfessorJones' de Bold denies that he's in it for a quick buck.

"I'm not one of those people who's out there to create this monolith of a company so I can sell to an American tomorrow," he says.

ProfessorJones is a private company funded by individual investors from across Canada, but de Bold insists that he wants to make sure everyone wins if ProfessorJones is successful: students, institutions and the company alike.

Likewise, uPath is a private company. In terms of investors, Adam Starr will only say that they are currently "lobbying between three different deals," and that uPath won't be put in "any situation where a brand or an industry will be dictating what we do."

Assuming student internet portals are more than just another online fad, what does the future hold? "I think that students will be the ones who make that decision," said de Bold, "not the companies."

For his part, uPath's Starr believes co-operation between student portals and other internet-based companies is already underway, and that the future where "your entire school experience can be done online," is not that far away.

Faces and Breasts

Bryan Adams shouldn't quit his day job

BY JOHN ORTVED

The most unfortunate thing about *Made in Canada*, Bryan Adams' book of photography currently at the McCord Museum, is that it's not horrible.

I—as I'm sure did many others—went to the show ostensibly to see if Bryan Adams' photographic voice was comparable to the one he sings with, but really I wanted to see how badly his photos would suck. There's nothing better than seeing a celebrity fail completely when out of their element. Take for example Michael Jordan and Garth Brooks playing baseball, Wayne Gretzky designing clothes, Puff Daddy rapping, Kevin Costner directing. Failure of misplaced celebrity talent for us is like cool lemonade on a warm summer's day—a freshly oiled and cleaned colt .45 to an obsessive-compulsive gun collector.

The satisfaction found in the utter non-success of those we choose to celebrate is comparable to the taste of freshly squeezed orange juice when hungover, or the crippling of someone you really don't like. I am thereby unsatisfied. Adams' stuff unfortunately isn't that bad. It isn't necessarily anything special, but the pictures, for the most part, are at worst boring and unless

you're the kids from *American Beauty*, worse things can be said about photography. So, while Bryan Adams hasn't fallen hard enough on his face for me to trample him, I will settle for a few kicks to the shin and maybe a shot to the kidneys while his back is turned.

Adams had decided to take photos of famous Canadian women, in support of breast cancer. Everyone you thought you might see is there. Famous Canadian women—Silken Laumann, check; Alanis Morissette, check; Margaret Atwood, check.

My problem with the work is that Adams is all over the map. Instead of photographing something specific or something he has some relevant perspective on, he has chosen to do the whole spectrum of famous Canadian women. Sports figures, musicians, writers, models; not one of these, but all of these. And to really cover all his bases, he's thrown in the charitable cause (to which, impressively, all of the royalties from the book are being donated).

It must be difficult for celebrities to use their status to support a cause without jerks like me getting all cynical on them, so I'll ignore the fact that his donating the book's royalties to Breast Cancer Research was

plastered all over the press releases and I offer my commendations. Still, a pop star doing photography, his subject being a whole country's famous females and a charitable cause, he's got more ground covered than the world's largest tent.

There are some bright spots at the exhibit. k.d. lang's photograph stands out far above all others and is remarkable, yet there remain too many photographs of pretty people.

Each photograph is supposed to capture the spirit of the individual featured, which might explain why the least captivating and bland photographs belong to the models and actresses. The awards for reigning queens in the Land of the Bland belong to Neve Campbell and pretty much every model featured.

There is a second trend worth mentioning in the exhibit: the more famous (in the "pop" sense) the subject, the less creative and interesting the photograph. Alanis Morissette, Sarah McLachlan, and Celine Dion, probably the most currently famous of the subjects, all yield insipid photographs. On several subjects, Adams has solarized the exposure, adding some substance to a few lacking images, but producing a result that is little more than



icing on a tasteless cake.

There's really nothing wrong with the photos. They're neat, I guess. I'm sure the exhibit will attract huge numbers and the book will sell thousands of copies, but going to this exhibit is like going to the

party where you know everyone who is going to be there. It doesn't matter if the party sucks, there is the safety net that you will have some kind of relation to each person you're going to encounter. You go into the exhibit knowing you're going to have some knowledge and therefore a perspective on each subject featured. It places criticism and acceptance within every viewer's grasp.

Photography of celebrities is no great challenge. Whatever you do with them is

either going to look interesting, beautiful or at the very least, recognizable. Photographing women of such celebrity is easy, almost a cop-out and if he wasn't doing it for breast cancer, I'd be critical.



Fair trade coffee table by Pierre-Alain Parfond

CAMPUS EYE

Campus Eye is a little look at goings-on at McGill.

The photo department of The McGill Daily welcomes submissions. Come by Room B-03 with your photos and talk to Céline Heinbecker or Pierre-Alain Parfond.

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Real Food for the Real World

BY KATHY ZUCCA

MONTREAL (CUP) - This is not your typical soup kitchen. Students enthusiastically greet each other as they serve themselves heaping plates of salad, fresh bread and tabouli. Music blasts in the background as volunteers carry in stacks of clean dishes and cutlery. The food is flavourful and the atmosphere warm. It's unclear who is eating and who is serving. Most people are doing both.

Sound like a utopian fantasy? Well, if day one of Concordia Food Collective's new venture, the People's Potato, is any indication fantasy may become a reality.

But while the program may be inviting, its mere necessity indicates a problem: university students are hungry. And government loans aren't leaving them enough money to eat.

Noting the lack of affordable and nutritious eating options at Concordia, the Food Collective developed the People's Potato. Running out of the basement of the campus pub Reggie's, the program offers free lunches to students during the school week.

Implicit in the group's venture is a challenge to Concordia administration and on-campus food distributor Marriott to provide affordable food to students.

"A salad from Marriott costs \$4," said Marguerite Bromley, a Food Collective organizer. "It is expensive to eat a healthy meal anywhere. Sure, pizza is 99 cents, but it's not healthy."

With the economic support of the Concordia Student Union (CSU) and var-

ious churches, the People's Potato has enough funding to start the semester, but will have to look to additional sources later in the term.

The CSU has made the fight against student poverty and hunger a top priority.

According to Mistie Mullarkey, CSU vice-president (external), many university students live in poverty, although they may not define themselves as poor.

"The Loans/Bursaries system in Quebec means you live in poverty. The maximum you can receive, \$7,904, is quite low, especially minus tuition," said Mullarkey. The poverty line in Montreal is \$14,000.

Mullarkey points out that the maximum amount of loans a student can accumulate is \$25,000 for both CEGEP and University. If a student were to go to school for five years that would mean only \$5,000 per year. As tuition for an in-province student totals approximately \$2,400, that doesn't leave much for rent, food and other necessities.

The administrative fees charged by Concordia only heighten the problem, according to Mullarkey. Loans and bursaries are distributed to individuals and do not take the institution into account, so that students charged extra fees at Concordia do not receive more loan money than students at institutions that do not charge such fees.

"This is money that students could use to eat," said Mullarkey.

"The University is responsible for some of the problems of student poverty and should take responsibility."

The People's Potato is not the first on-

campus program to address student hunger. Mother Hubbard's Cupboard has been serving up vegetarian meals to students for over four years. D. L. Ross, co-ordinator of Campus Ministry, began the program in February 1995 to address two problems facing Concordia students: student poverty and loneliness. Ross found that many students, especially out-of-province and international students, experience feelings of loneliness and isolation. She says poverty heightens isolation because certain students can't afford to pay for restaurant meals, movies and other social activities.

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard is funded in part through the Champlain's office. The rest of the money is provided by the students who use the service. Like the People's Potato donations are accepted - usually one \$1 - but are not required. The organizers emphasize that no one is turned away if they can't afford to make a donation. Mother Hubbard's Cupboard offers a welcoming environment, removing some of the stigma that might accompany other food programs or soup kitchens.

"There is no stigma attached to Mother Hubbard's," said Suzanne Bate, who organizes the volunteers. "[It's] just the opposite. It has gained a reputation as a cool place to hang out."

Ross co-ordinates another program through the Chaplaincy called the Emergency Food Fund. This program provides short-term assistance to students in the form of food vouchers redeemable at Provigo grocery stores.

The vouchers are intended to be emer-

gency help in cases of extreme need, whereas Mother Hubbard's is a weekly service. Students are referred to the program by Counseling and Development or Financial Aid.

In addition to the vouchers, the chaplains provide emotional support and referrals to other services. But Ross worries that such programs are only temporary solutions.

"Economic times are supposed to be good, but student poverty is tied to many other problems in the educational system," said Ross. "Having a job and doing studies is very difficult. Loans are not increasing with the rate of tuition."

Bate agrees the problems associated with student poverty are serious.

"I know a professor who watched a student pass out during an exam because she hadn't eaten in 10 days. That's indicative of what is going on. Some students can only spend a dollar per day on food and they are eating crap. That doesn't make for good health."

Bate believes the system doesn't care for students the way it says it does. Like Mullarkey, she points out that students are penalized by the Loans/Bursaries program if they work and are penalized if they don't. Ross also envisions a change in the Loans/Bursaries program to really address student poverty.

"They need to be more flexible by combining loans with part-time work. At least Concordia is more flexible than many other universities by letting part-time students have full student services."

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CD REVIEW

CYRUS

SUN TO STAR

(Goddess On the Lotus)

Canadian artist Cyrus has released a debut solo album called *Sun to Star* which, though pleasant and interesting in terms of vocal quality and instrumentation, lacks a unifying style. The tunes are catchy, and I must admit that I've been humming them under my breath for days, but the album provides ambience more than shocking lyrics or an original sound.

The artist proclaims his album to be what happens when "Cat Stevens meets

Bob Marley meets Ravi Shankar." In fact the sounds of these three musicians do convene on the album, but their styles are not well integrated. Instead each track is reminiscent of a single artist's work, and the CD resembles a homemade music mix. In addition to Marley, Stevens, and Shankar, there are echoes of Paul Simon, Sting, and the Grateful Dead.

The album's lyrics are mellow and relaxing, treating the time-worn subjects of heartache and the passing of time. In a riff reminiscent of the Grateful Dead Cyrus asks "If the night/ plays to the morning/ would you stay with me?/ and if the moon/ plays to the sun/ would you stay with me?"

Cyrus' poetic style leaves something to be desired, the subjects that he touches, including world peace and faith, are admirable.

Cyrus' "guitar driven topsy tabla pop" is interesting for its combination of traditional styles. Cyrus moved to Canada when he was young, and his music attempts to weave together influences from his experiences in both eastern and western cultures. His most striking success in this respect is due to unusual combinations of instruments. Certain tracks have a predominantly western sound, utilizing only vocals, drums, bass, and acoustic guitar, but others, such as "dance, dance, dance" utilize

the dholak-a drum which resembles the Naal-the hammer dulcimer, and the tabla in addition to the double bass.

Perhaps when Cyrus claims that his music resembles that of Ravi Shankar he is drawing a parallel between his own mainstream use of the tabla and Shankar's introduction of the sitar to western music through such popular songs as the Beatles' "Norwegian Wood." The tabla is a pair of drums from northern India, one wooden and one metal, whose heads are treated with a mixture including rice gluten and iron filings. The instrument undeniably gives Cyrus' music an eastern flair.

Unfortunately, the heavily influenced



nature of the compositions in which these interesting instruments are used leads to a rather mainstream sound for each track and for the album as a whole.

Sun to Star highlights Cyrus' range of vocal qualities and his facility in incorporating a wide variety of influences. The result, though pleasant, doesn't leave an impact. It is clear from this debut album that Cyrus has the potential to develop into a successful musician, but whether he succeeds in creating a style of his own which combines elements of western and eastern music, or falls into the production of a mainstream sound, remains to be seen.

- Emily Rosenberg

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